

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1-14. (Previously cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) An ion pair surfactant in which a protonated form of an N-C<sub>8-24</sub> acylamino acid and an alkali salt of an amino acid are blended in a ratio of between 1.0 to 1.6 equivalents of the alkali salt of the amino acid relative to the protonated acylamino acid, and neutralized to form an ion pair having a pH of 5 to 9.

16. (Currently Amended) A surfactant according to claim 15, wherein an amino acid in the alkali salt of an amino acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of acidic amino acids and neutral amino acids, wherein the amount of alkali in the surfactant is between 1.2 to 2 equivalents relative to the amino acid, if an acidic amino acid, and is between 1.0 to 1.4 equivalents relative to the amino acid if a neutral amino acid.

17. A surfactant according to claim 15, wherein an amino acid in the alkali salt of an amino acid is at least one member selected from  $\alpha$ -amino acids.

18. A surfactant according to claim 15, wherein an amino acid in the alkali salt of an amino acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, proline, hydroxylproline, glutamine, glutamic acid, asparagine, aspartic acid, and glycyglycine.

19. A surfactant according to claim 15, wherein an amino acid in the alkali salt of an amino acid is at least one member selected from the group

consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, glutamic acid, and glycylglycine.

20. (Currently Amended) An ion pair surfactant salt of a protonated form of an N-C<sub>8-24</sub> acylamino acid cation and an amino acid anion that are blended in a ratio of between 1.0 to 1.6 equivalents of the alkali salt of the amino acid relative to the protonated acylamino acid, and neutralized to a pH of 5 to 9.

21. (Previously Presented) A surfactant salt according to claim 20, wherein the amino acid anion is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, proline, hydroxylproline, glutamine, glutamic acid, asparagine, aspartic acid, and glycylglycine.

22. (Previously Presented) A surfactant salt according to claim 20, wherein the amino acid anion is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, glutamic acid, and glycylglycine.

23. (Previously Presented) An emulsion comprising a surfactant salt according to claim 15, wherein the surfactant salt is 0.1% to 5% by weight of the emulsion.